

(a) whether Government are aware that 50 workers per day get injured and some die, due to inadequate or lack of medical facility in ship-breaking industry;

(b) whether Government are aware that the service and working conditions are very much exploitative and poor due to absence of labour legislations; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have contemplated to bring in labour legislations, to protect the unorganized labour in ship-breaking industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and b) As per available information, such a situation does not exist in the ship breaking industry.

(c) There is no proposal to enact a separate legislation for the unorganized workers in the ship breaking industry. However, a proposal to formulate social security scheme and legislation for all categories of the workers in the unorganized sector which may include workers in the ship breaking industry is under active consideration of the Government.

Implementation of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana

840. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are giving priority to implementing the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana in those areas, which are calamity prone, backward and high in migration of labour;

(b) if so, the number of areas which are calamity prone and backward, and benefited through this scheme; and

(c) the total financial allocation provided for implementation of this scheme in such areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) is an allocation based programme. At the beginning of a year, funds and foodgrains are allocated under SGRY based on fixed criteria which is uniform for the whole country. 5% of total allocation is kept as reserve for release to the areas affected by calamities.

Under Special Component of SGRY, only foodgrains are provided to the States for calamity affected areas based on recommendation of a High Level Committee.

(b) and (c) SGRY covers all the districts of the country (except Delhi and Chandigarh). However, in 200 identified backward districts of the country, SGRY has been subsumed into National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) from 2006-2007. Rs. 2911.54 crores and 17 lakh MTs of foodgrains have been allocated to the districts covered under SGRY in 2006-07. 4.4 lakh MTs of foodgrains have also been released to the calamity affected areas in the States of Jharkhand, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu during 2006-07.

Vacant positions in DRDAs

841. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) are the prime functionaries to implement poverty eradication programmes of the Centre and the States;

(b) whether DRDAs are short-staffed to the extent of 43 per cent of the positions on the average and 70 per cent of Group A posts;

(c) whether more than 80 per cent of the Group A position in Punjab, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and West Bengal remain vacant; and

(d) if so, whether the Centre has empowered the States to fill Group A posts by hiring technical professional on contract basis; if so, the action initiated by the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTAPATIL): (a) No, Sir. The District Rural Development Agencies are not the implementing agencies. The District Rural Development Agency is visualized as a specialized and a professional agency capable of managing the anti-poverty programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development on the one hand and to effectively relate these to the overall effort of poverty eradication in the District. They are expected to coordinate with the line departments, the Panchayati Raj Institutions, the banks and other financial